

Offer quit-smoking support to residents and staff (Research shows that no-smoking policies can help residents quit).

5. Enforce Your Policy

Taking the rules seriously with all residents from day one will send a clear message that smoking is not allowed. You should visit the property regularly and perform inspections for signs of smoking. Also ask residents to report suspected violations immediately and follow up with the complaints right a way.

On the first violation, send a written warning letter to remind the resident about the policy. Warn residents of the consequences of a second incident and document details on each incident (who, what, where, when, etc.).

Also, hold residents financially responsible for carpet cleaning, painting and repairs for other smoking-related damage. You may want to use a third-party vendor to verify smoke damage. Note that some vendors charge more for cleaning and repairs due to smoke damage.



Making your housing unit Smoke-free can prove to be beneficial not only for yourself but also for your residents.

Additional Resources:

www.smokefree.gov

www.smokefreewashington.com

www.quitline.com

www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices.aspx

Island County Public Health
P O Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239-5000

Smoke-Free Housing Made Easy



*Creating a
Healthier
Community for
You and Your
Residents*



**Assessment and Healthy
Communities**
www.islandcountyahc.org
360-678-7917

Advantages of going Smoke-Free

1. 92% of renters prefer to live in smoke-free housing. 95% of non-smokers prefer smoke-free housing and 75% of smokers prefer to live in smoke-free housing.*



2. No one has the legal right to smoke, so you are not discriminating against anyone by restricting them from smoking in your housing. You are not required to make accommodations for a resident to smoke. Just as you might regulate pets, you have the right to limit smoking.

3. Implementing a smoke-free policy can save money. It can help reduce your cost of having to deep clean or replace carpets, repaint walls, or replace blinds and other appliances in an effort to get rid of the smell and stains once tenants leave.

4. Smoke-free policies can help prevent fires in your units, potentially reducing your insurance premium and provide a healthier environment for all. Secondhand smoke is a known cause for cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness, Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) and other illnesses. Richard Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General from '02-'06 stated "The debate is over. The science is clear: Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard."

*www.smokefreewashington.com

5 Steps in Becoming Smoke-Free

1. Identify the Champions in your Housing

Current resident support is essential in creating a smoke-free policy. Get them involved by inviting them to gather and discuss ways to create a healthier community. Conduct surveys among current residents on the support for a no-smoking policy. Share materials that outline the benefits of smoke-free housing and provide information about resources available to help people who want to quit smoking.

2. Develop Your Policy

No-smoking policies can be easy to create and implement. They should include all indoor areas including individual units and all outdoor areas within 25 feet of entrances, windows and air intakes of the building. It is also recommended that smoking be prohibited in all outdoor areas of your properties as well, thus maximizing the protection of your residents and buildings. Designated smoking areas can be created and should be placed away from areas where residents normally pass through or enter to ensure that no one has to be exposed to secondhand smoke.



An example of a no-smoking policy could be:

"No Smoking: Due to the increased risk of fire, increased maintenance costs and known health effects of secondhand

smoke, smoking is prohibited in private and common areas of the property, all indoor areas, and within 25 feet of the building (s) including entryways, balconies and patios. This policy applies to all owners, residents, guests and service persons. Residents are responsible for ensuring that family members, roommates and guests comply with this rule,"

Definition of "smoking": The term 'smoking' means any inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarettes, or other tobacco product in any manner or form.

3. Communicate Your Policy

No-Smoking policies should be included in new residents leases.

Washington state law require that you give residents at least a 30-days notice before changing any rules. However, giving residents a little more time to adjust to the new policy may make implementing it a little easier.

Send out documentation to all residents with the new policy language letting them know where they can and can't smoke and the implications it has for all.

Explain the reasons for the policy (reducing fire risk, improving health, protecting the property) and let them know the effective date.

Also provide them with resources for quitting smoking such as the free :

Washington State Tobacco Quit Line, 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

4. Implement Your No-Smoking Policy

Write the new policy into your lease and rental agreements. Be sure that all current and new residents know where smoking is and is not allowed, and that the rule applies to their guests as well.

Highlight your no-smoking policy in rental listings and advertising.

Explain the policy before prospective residents apply for a unit, and remind them when they move in.

Post "No Smoking" and "Smoke-Free Area" signs to make it clear where smoking is not allowed.